

Media Advisory

National Weather Service, Des Moines, IA

March 12, 2010

This spring, the National Weather Service in Des Moines will have a maximum wind/hail tag on the bottom of severe thunderstorm warnings. This policy is a “test” policy which will be used across the Central Region of the National Weather Service which covers 14 states in the central United States. This new policy went into effect on March 1, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Johnson at the National Weather Service at 515-270-4501, E726. Thank you.

Here is the official statement issued by Central Region Headquarters concerning the hail/wind tag:

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE KANSAS CITY MO
XXXX AM CST XXX XXX XX 2010

...MAXIMUM WIND-HAIL SIZE TAG TO BE APPENDED TO SEVERE
THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS...

BEGINNING MARCH 1 2010...ALL NWS CENTRAL REGION WEATHER FORECAST
OFFICES WILL BE APPENDING A TAG LINE TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORM
WARNINGS /SVR/... AND FOLLOW-UP SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENTS /SVS/.
FOR THE GREAT LAKES... THIS TAG LINE WILL ALSO BE APPENDED TO
SPECIAL MARINE WARNINGS /SMW/.

THE TAG LINE IS A CONCISE CODE WHICH IDENTIFIES MAXIMUM HAIL
SIZE AND WIND SPEED EXPECTED FOR A GIVEN WARNING. INCLUSION OF
THIS INFORMATION AT THE END OF THESE PRODUCTS REPRESENTS AN
EFFORT TO RESPOND TO PARTNER REQUESTS FROM THE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY AS WELL AS SEVERAL SOCIETAL IMPACT GROUPS.

FOR INSTANCE...ONE SPECIFIC APPLICATION CONCERNS THE ACTIVATION
OF EMERGENCY ALERT SIRENS. LOCAL AREA SIRENS ARE TYPICALLY
ALARMED FOR TORNADOES ONLY. DECODING THIS TAG LINE WILL
FACILITATE THE CAPABILITY FOR LOCAL AREA EMERGENCY MANAGERS TO
ACTIVATE SIRENS FOR PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS SEVERE THUNDERSTORM

EVENTS WHEN CONDITIONS EXCEED USER DEFINED THRESHOLDS...SAY FOR WINDS GREATER THAN 90 MPH AS AN EXAMPLE.

THE MAXIMUM WIND-HAIL SIZE TAG LINE IS AN EXPERIMENT WHICH WILL BE EVALUATED FROM MARCH 1 2010 THROUGH OCTOBER 1 2010. DURING THIS PERIOD...WE ENCOURAGE COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT USING THE ELECTRONIC SURVEY PROVIDED AT THE LINK BELOW. YOUR FEEDBACK WILL HELP US DETERMINE PRODUCT USEFULNESS...WHETHER MODIFICATIONS ARE NEEDED...AND WHETHER THIS WILL BECOME A PERMANENT ADDITION TO OUR WARNING FORMAT.

ON-LINE CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SURVEY /USE LOWER CASE/:
[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SURVEY/NWS-SURVEY.PHP?CODE=SVR-WIND-HAIL](http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=svr-wind-hail)

A SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT FOR THIS EXPERIMENT IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT :
[HTTP://PRODUCTS.WEATHER.GOV](http://products.weather.gov)

A MAP SHOWING AFFECTED OFFICES IS ON-LINE AT:
[HTTP://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/OS/NOTIFICATION/RESOURCES/CR WFOS.PDF](http://www.weather.gov/os/notification/resources/cr_wfos.pdf)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO:
[KIM.RUNK@NOAA.GOV](mailto:kim.runk@noaa.gov)
OR
[JIM.KEENEY@NOAA.GOV](mailto:jim.keeney@noaa.gov)

